

"Dealing with Misconceptions"
John 6:22-71

Misconceptions of the faith:

1. The belief that the material (physical things of life) will satisfy the hungers of life – the materialist.
2. The belief that works, good deeds, can earn us a relationship with God that we hunger for – the legalist
3. The belief that miracles always lead people to a deeper faith in God – the sensationalist
4. The belief that God chooses to reach out in love to some people and rejects the rest – the exclusionist

"Whosoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13

"For God so loved the world that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

"God is not willing for anyone to perish but for everyone to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9

"Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:2

"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing." Matthew 23:37

"Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe." Philippians 2:14-15

Four common types of complainers:

1. The "whiner"

"Have I been wasting my time? Why take all the trouble to be pure? All I get out of it is trouble and woe." Psalm 73:13

"We put up with a whole day's work in the hot sun – yet you paid them the same as you paid us." Matthew 20:12

2. The "martyr"

"Moses said to the Lord, 'Why pick on me, to give the burden of a people like this? I can't carry this nation by myself! If you're going to treat me like this, please kill me right now – it will be a kindness! Let me out of this impossible situation.'" Numbers 11:11, 15

3. The "cynic"

"Life is useless. You spend your life working and what do you have to show for it?" Ecclesiastes 1:2 - 4, 9

4. The "perfectionist"

"A nagging wife is like water going drip, drip, drip on a rainy day." Proverbs 27:15

"Better to live out in the desert than with a nagging, complaining wife." Proverbs 21:19

How can I deal with a complaining spirit?

1. Admit it is a problem

"A man who refuses to admit his mistakes can never be successful. But if he confesses and forsakes them, he gets another chance." Proverbs 28:13

2. Accept responsibility for my own life

"Some people ruin themselves by their own stupid mistakes and then blame the Lord." Proverbs 19:3

3. Develop an attitude of gratitude

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

4. Look for God's hand in circumstances

"This small and temporary trouble we suffer will bring us a tremendous and eternal glory, much greater than the trouble. So we fix our attention, not on the things that are seen, but on the things that are unseen. What is seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts forever." 2 Corinthians 4:17, 18

5. Practice speaking positively

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Ephesians 4:29

Three responses:

1. Defection
2. Determination
3. Deception